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Aggies give back during annual 'A' Day of Giving event

By Maggie Erikson
NEWS STAFF WRITER

For three years, Aggies both past and present come together for a Utah State University event known as "A" Day of Giving.

Students, alumni and friends of the university dedicated 24 hours on Oct. 21 to support scholarships and organizations from every campus, college and program at USU.

Each year the focus of the day is different, depending on the needs of the students.

Last year, gifts went towards supporting students who had been financially affected by the pandemic. This year, donations went towards the "First To... Scholarship," a scholarship by Aggies, for Aggies.

According to the USU Advancement Service's website, the scholarship lets the senior class donate money to the underclassmen who are the first to do something, whether they are the first in their family to go to college, the first business major in their family, or the first to be an Aggie.

"I have an academic scholarship," said USU student Ester Atkinson, "so it's really helpful because my parents aren't paying for my college and it means I have less tuition to pay."

Becca Lau, a member of the USU A-Team who helped run "A" Day of Giving, said that she thinks it's a great opportunity for students to make a difference.

"Pioneering those new ideas — I think is really cool, and it's pushing the idea that you can do something," Lau said. "I think it's just cool that it's for students and by students."

Besides the First To... Scholarship, which was the main focus of the day, participants could also donate to the college of their choice.

Even organizations which do not fall under a specific college including the Student Nutrition Access Center, USU Libraries and the Office of Global Engagement, fundraised for the coming year.

This is the third year USU held "A" Day of Giving and Jonathan Young has been in charge since the beginning.

"We're fundraising for a good cause, like this year with student scholarships," Young said. "And me, attending Utah State and USU Eastern — I received scholarships while I was at school. So, it's very beneficial to me to be able to help other people give back, like I get to give back."

Young is very proud of the growth that the event has seen since its inception. This year they raised more than they ever have before. They raised \$216,952, along with 775 gifts.

"I had a donor count set in my mind of what I wanted, because I don't like to focus on the dollars, Young said. "When we're fundraising, we're raising money for an individual, for a student, for a cause. My goal was to be

able to generate enough funds that would benefit students and I think we did that."

Young said he is excited to continue growing "A" Day of Giving and being able to give back to his university.

"The goals for next year are to share more about the impact that a donor can have on the life of a student," he said.

Although it won't count towards the official total for "A" Day of Giving, anyone who would like to is still able to donate to the program of their choice at www.usu.edu/adayofgiving.



Maggie Erikson is a first year student at USU and first year writer for the Statesman. She is working on an associates degree, but still finds time to be outdoors and eat lots of ice cream.

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Collaboration brings new type of chocolate to USU

By Brielle Carr
NEWS STAFF WRITER

The Aggie Chocolate Factory recently announced a new collaboration with Twenty Degrees Chocolates, a sustainable cocoa bean supplier, which has not only brought new study abroad opportunities, but a tasty new chocolate bar.

The Aggie Chocolate Factory is a facility to learn about the chocolatier craft. Over 100 students each year go through the chocolate lab as a part of a class offered through Utah State University where they learn about the chocolate-making process.

The factory is part of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, and it is the only bean-to-bar chocolate facility at a university in all of North and South America.

All the workers in the factory, other than the manager, Steven Bernet, are students at USU.

Some students have even done internships in Europe. Bernet hopes they can keep building on that with the new collaboration with Twenty Degrees Chocolates.

"I really think there's an opportunity for us to collaborate — work together on small projects involving sustainability," Bernet said.

He also said the factory is working on creating a study abroad program with the College of Agriculture so students can do

work and service in less-developed countries.

Twenty Degrees is a small piece of Olam International, a major food and agri-business company in 60 countries where they supply food and raw materials.

"People are very interested in the finer aspects of the chocolate and the nuances of flavors between beans from different origins," Bernet said. "Twenty Degrees specializes in its specialty cocoa beans of very high quality from different origins that are ethically produced."

Chocolate comes from the fruit of the cacao tree, which can only grow 20 degrees from the equator. These trees are native to Central and South America and therefore have a very narrow growing region.

Villa Riva is the farming group based in the Duarte province of the Dominican Republic, where the cocoa beans for the new chocolate bar are coming from.

The process from the cacao tree to the hands of USU is long and complicated but, according to Bernet, it's worth it.

The farmers harvest the cocoa pods and then ferment them before they are sent off to the distributor. Through Twenty Degrees, the factory has access to the beans and the rest is done at the chocolate lab in Logan.

The bags of cocoa beans come in and are sorted by hand. Only whole — and there-



PHOTO BY Brielle Carr
Cacao bean at the Aggie Chocolate Factory before the chocolate-making process begins.

fore the best — cocoa beans are used to make chocolate. After the beans are sorted, they go into a machine to be winnowed, meaning their outer shell is shed. Then the beans can go through the five-day grinding process. Finally, the chocolate is put in a tempering unit, bringing the chocolate to the smooth texture customers love.

"When you buy a Hershey bar you want it to taste like a Hershey bar every time, right? You don't want it to taste different," Bernet said. "You know you want it to taste exactly the same every time. So, that's what they do, and we do the opposite. We try to find unique flavors."

The new Villa Riva chocolate bar has been out for about four weeks and is still available for all those who want to stop by the factory and give it a try.

Aspen Curtis, a junior at USU, recently tried the new Villa Riva chocolate bar and recommends it to dark chocolate lovers.

"I really like it," she said. "It's super rich but it's not overpowering and it tastes like what real chocolate should taste like."



Brielle Carr is a first year student studying journalism. She loves to read and spend a lot of her time at the gym.

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PHOTO BY Jared Craig

Behind the counter at the Aggie Chocolate Factory.



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2020 graduates recognized with one-of-a-kind ceremony

By Brielle Carr
NEWS STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 23, the Utah State University Alumni Association hosted a cap and gown ceremony for all 2020 USU graduates and their friends and families. This ceremony took place in the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum on Logan campus, and included a virtual option for students who could not attend the live ceremony.

"It's not a typical graduation because people already have been conferred their degrees and they have a diploma," said Kim Larson, the executive director of the alumni association. "It's really a way to celebrate the class of 2020."

USU 2020 graduates were not able to participate in a graduation as students have had in previous years. Due to the coronavirus, the need to keep the graduates and their families safe was the biggest concern and the commencement ceremonies were canceled.

Last year USU sent out boxes to the graduates to celebrate their four years of hard work. The boxes included their diploma, the diploma cover, Aggie swag and college medallions.

To further celebrate the class of 2020, they presented a video including footage of their years at the school.

However, the graduates still missed out on the momentous walk across the stage that symbolized their accomplishments and that is what this ceremony was meant to remedy.

Larson said about 200 graduates attended the ceremony in person, while around 70 attended via Zoom. Although, there were more than 1,000 guests there to support the graduates.

The ceremony was different from any other graduation, since all the graduates are now alumni and therefore the graduation was organized by the alumni association instead of an academic group on campus.

The alumni association sent out a survey to all of the graduates asking them how they would like to celebrate their one-of-a-kind graduation ceremony. About 1,000 of them responded to the survey and the ceremony was crafted to fit the graduates' responses.

Along with the special ceremony, the graduates also received discounts for the homecoming football game and for the campus bookstore.

The class of 2020 were also the first students at USU to participate in the Luminary. The Luminary is a celebration of the newest class at the university and is celebrated as part of the pre-semester connections course. Lanterns in the shape of the Old Main "A" were made for all the graduates who attended the ceremony.

Read the rest of this story at usustatesman.com.



PHOTO BY Bailey Rigby



Student Affairs
UtahStateUniversity

NOVEMBER 6TH
9-11 / TSC BALLROOM



Deep Roots: Understanding the centuries of war in Afghanistan

Part IV

By Michael Popa II
NEWS STAFF WRITER

In their final years, the Trump administration made efforts to create peace between the Taliban and Afghanistan. But, an unwilling Taliban made agreements between the Taliban, the U.S. and Afghanistan nearly impossible. Violence against Afghan citizens increased and Afghanistan was resistant to releasing Taliban prisoners as part of a deal in the works. Despite difficulty in making peace, one thing was for certain, Trump wanted out.

By late 2020, however, Trump understood a complete and total pullout wouldn't be possible, just as his predecessor came to realize. To prevent a total collapse of Afghanistan and a "Saigon-type of situation," as described as by Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., on Nov. 17, 2020, the administration announced a standing force of 2,500 troops would remain in the country to stabilize Afghanistan and support its military. They said the reduction in troops would occur by Jan. 15, 2021, just days before the recently-elected former vice president, Joe Biden, would be inaugurated as the 46th president of the U.S.

After Biden had held office for less than a month, the Afghanistan Study Group, a congressional group formed in 2019 that aimed to research potential policy modifications regarding the handling of the Taliban and peace-building in Afghanistan, released a report containing several suggestions for how to modify the remaining elements of the Trump-era peace deal.

In short, the report recommended, "a complete withdrawal of U.S. troops (based) not on an inflexible timeline but on all parties fulfilling their commitments, including the Taliban making good on its promises to contain terrorist groups and reduce violence against the Afghan people and making compromises to achieve a political settlement."

Later in the report, it suggested "a sustainable peace agreement will be the responsibility of the Afghan parties to the ongoing negotiations, but the United States can play a key role in determining if this opportunity is taken. A responsible, predictable, and coherent set of U.S. actions could greatly increase the chances of a peaceful resolution to forty years of conflict; a rash and rushed approach could increase the chances of a breakdown of order in Afghanistan that threatens the security and interests of the United States and its allies."

Just a couple weeks later, Biden picked up his campaign promise to end the war in Afghanistan once and for all.

"My administration strongly supports the diplomatic process that's underway and to bring an end to this war that is closing out 20 years," Biden said. "We remain

committed to ensuring that Afghanistan never again provides a base for terrorist attacks against the United States and our partners and our interests."

This indicated his desire to conduct a complete withdrawal. But despite concerns from his Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, who expressed concern that "the security situation will worsen and the Taliban could make rapid territorial gains," Biden committed to a complete pullout in his speech on April 14, declaring that it was "time to end the forever war."

Biden promised a complete and total retreat to be con-

of Defense report released just a few months after Biden's announcement.

In the face of Taliban forces growing as the U.S. prepared to leave, Zalmay Khalilzad, appointed to help resolve U.S.-Afghanistan foreign policy issues, insisted the Taliban would not be a force capable of taking over Afghanistan if U.S. troops protecting the government were to leave.

Explaining the Taliban's lack of military capability, Khalilzad said if the Taliban were to make a push against the Afghan government it would "result in a long war because Afghan security forces (would) fight, other Afghans (would) fight, neighbors (would) come to support."

Saying Afghanistan's military would hold and easily resist Taliban efforts, he continued by explaining that "the statements that the [Afghan] forces will disintegrate, and the Talibs will take over in short order are mistaken. The real choices that the Afghans will face is between a long war and negotiated settlement."

Khalilzad's sentiments were later countered, though, by the appointed spokesman for the Taliban, Zabihullah Mujahid, who declared a continued jihad against Western forces and influences to achieve their goal of forming an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

Continuing to try and fulfill the promise of a total withdrawal while facing significant pressures from Taliban forces, the U.S. military quietly withdrew from Bagram Airfield, America's largest stronghold in the country, without informing the new Afghan post command, signaling a lack of coordination between the two country's leadership.

Walking back on Khalilzad and other Biden administration military official's statements on the Taliban's inability to usurp control over Afghanistan, Present Biden changed the deadline to be withdrawn from Sept. 11 to Aug. 31, citing that "speed is safety" and a Taliban now "at its strongest militarily since 2001," would pose an imminent threat to U.S. troops if they stayed longer than necessary.

Read the rest of this story at usustatesman.com.



Michael Popa II is a sophomore studying human biology, statistics and mathematics, and serves as a combat medic for the U.S. Army. He also has a podcast on Aggie Radio.

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GRAPHIC BY Sadie Buhman

ducted by Sept. 11, the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

In his speech, Biden said, "More and endless American military force could not create or sustain a durable Afghan government."

After expressing concern about the original May 1 withdrawal date proposed by the Trump administration, Biden said, "We will not conduct a hasty rush to the exit. We'll do it responsibly, deliberately and safely."

Upset by the change of plans to extend the withdrawal from May 1 to Sept. 11, the Taliban released a statement threatening the U.S. to stay on course with the original pullout date or risk the Taliban taking "every necessary countermeasure, hence the American side will be held responsible for all future consequences."

Without hesitation, the Taliban held true to their words, increasing their attacks on Afghanistan government entities and other anti-West groups by upwards of 37%. They also prepared for large-scale offensives against population centers, according to a Department

Volunteers witness life-changing moments

By Clarissa Casper
LIFESTYLES STAFF WRITER

Anna Trappett believes the most important moment of one's life is their death.

As a registered nurse who has been working at Community Nursing Service Home Health & Hospice for the majority of her career, she has witnessed the good volunteers can bring at the end of one's life.

According to her, volunteers are as important as the nurses, social workers, doctors and other members of the hospice team.

Community Nursing Services, or CNS, here in Logan are looking for compassionate individuals to volunteer with their Home Health & Hospice team. Whether you're a pre-med student looking to build your resume — or simply someone who wants to give back to your community — this position provides volunteers with a meaningful experience.

"The volunteer plays a vital role with our hospice patients," Trappett said. "That role includes spending time reading to them, talking to them, playing music, sharing stories or even doing some crafts like quilts."

According to Trappett, all members of the team have the same goal in mind: provide compassionate care and each aspect of Hospice is important.

"The volunteer is an incredible component to the care of these patients, just like a cog in a wheel," Trappett said. "They're so important. They make a really hard process just that much easier."

Though crafting, reading, playing music and talking to patients are all good examples of what volunteers do, the most important question a volunteer can ask a patient is "what can I do to help," Trappett said.

Patients might need help straightening their home, doing the dishes, watching their kids or whatever else their needs might be. Trappett said volunteers comfort those who are experiencing a world of uncertainty.

"Sometimes they're just there to hold their hands," Trappett said.

The greatest thing a volunteer can do is just be a presence in the patient's life — something that is extremely important for those who are reaching the end of their lives.

"Life is hard," Trappett said. "And death is not any easier. But if you've got a team of people who are interested in you as a person, willing to listen and who show you compassion, it makes the process easier."

Many of the patients enjoy music, and volunteers can connect with them through it.

"A volunteer might find success through reaching a patient who isn't very responsive with music," Trappett said. "They may not remember the name of their family, or de-

tails about their life, but they might remember the tune."

When a volunteer applies for the position, they will share some of their hobbies and interests. If there are any shared interests, Trappett will try and pair those individuals together.

Trappett shared about a patient who had a special interest in opera and CNS was able to find a volunteer who appreciated opera just as much as him.

"He wouldn't tell us a whole lot," Trappett said. "It's almost like he didn't want to open up, but he did open up to his volunteer at least about his love for opera and the reasons he loved certain songs."

Trappett said it was a special experience for him to listen to and speak about something he loved in his final days.

Military volunteers are sometimes paired with patients who also served — which allows them to speak on their experiences with someone who understands.

Near the end of life, some patients have a hard time let-



GRAPHIC BY JAMES CLAYTON

ting go certain things they never resolved. Trappett mentioned one time a volunteer had an understanding of the patients' situation and was a great help.

"The volunteer just allowed that patient to talk and share those experiences in which the patient and the volunteer both related to," Trappett said. "It seems to open a doorway of communication that sometimes the other team members just can't reach."

Trappett emphasized the variety of services volunteers do for these people through sharing a story about a volunteer who wrote up a dying patient's journal from their religious mission.

The pandemic did not stop volunteers from being there for their patients. Phone calls, handwritten letters, art and alternative methods of communication were all received

by patients during the peak of the coronavirus.

"I knew one in particular that would just paint with watercolor and send it to their patient," Trappett said. "That is what being a volunteer looks like."

According to Trappett, being a volunteer with CNS doesn't just benefit the Home Health & Hospice patients — it has equal benefits for the volunteer — especially students looking to go into medicine or social work.

"When you're applying for whatever direction you're going," Trappett said, "to say that you volunteered in health care for hospice patients looks good on a resume."

Though this is a good opportunity for those students, the benefits don't stop at an impressive resume. Some people will find personal satisfaction for helping those who were in need.

"In the very end, you're going to look back at this and say, 'I did good work,'" Trappett said.

Trappett wants the volunteer process to not only be volunteering but an experience. Volunteers will be trained on a variety of topics including concepts of death and dying, the dying process, communication skills, coping mechanisms, stress management, and care and comfort measures.

"I may spend a little more time with the bio-med or the biology students and go over congestive heart failure, COPD and other diagnosis these patients may have," Trappett said. "It will be beneficial for them to be able to see the diagnoses they have learned about in class."

Though this is a good experience for those students, Trappett said anyone who is looking to immerse themselves in a different world of thinking and being is the perfect fit to be a volunteer.

"This is a good area to be in if you want to serve," Trappett said. "Serving mankind doesn't often come with bells and whistles."

Trappett suggests anyone who is looking to create life-long connections should try out the volunteer program.

"I know of volunteers who, even years after their patients died, still have contact with the family," Trappett said.

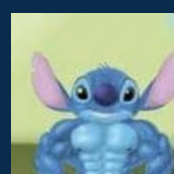
If you, or anyone you know is interested in volunteering with CNS, Trappett encourages you to reach out to her at Anna.Trappett@cns-cares.org.



Clarissa Casper is a sophomore studying journalism and aquatic science at Utah State University. Outside of writing for the Statesman, she loves to hike, write poetry and watch whales.

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TWEETS
of the
WEEK



@cartwatson

Utah drivers be like "Blinker!?? I barely know her"



@UtahUpdates

We bought one of those worms from Dune. Gonna put it in Little Sahara.

Recent competition brings Aggie equestrians together

By Malorie Ellefson
LIFESTYLES STAFF WRITER

You put your foot in the stirrup, hoisting yourself onto the tall horse. Your heart races with adrenaline as you get going—a feeling of freedom sets in. A smile stretches across your face as you make the first leap over the fence. It almost feels like you're flying. Looking around, your smile grows as you see all your new friends around you, enjoying the same sensation.

This is the feeling Brooklynne Wilkinson has when she rides a horse.

"It's very comfortable for me, very freeing," said Wilkinson, a freshman at Utah State University in her first semester in the USU English Equestrian Team. "It's a really good place to let go of all your fears."

The USU English Equestrian Team is a group of about 15 students who come together to enjoy a similar passion for riding. They do English riding, as opposed to the more popular Western style you see at rodeos. English style is focused more on form and how you and the horse look and work together.

Western and English also have different equipment. Western saddles have a signature horn, while English saddles do not. But just like Western riders have rodeos and other forms of competition, so do the English riders.

USU's equestrian team recently returned from their first show of the semester, competing in Colorado Springs. The team placed in at least one of their classes on both days and proved how hardworking Aggies can be.

"We have nine new people on the team, so it was a good learning experience for them," said Abbey Spencer, the captain of the team. "We don't take our own horses, we use the Colorado school's horses, so you have no idea what kind of horse you're going to ride. It's kind of luck of the draw."

In a competition all about your and your horse's form, this proves to be an obstacle for the riders. However, they don't see it that way.

"Jumping gives you a good adrenaline rush, but especially when you're jumping with a horse you've never ridden before," Wilkinson said. "My personal favorite part of the competition was being able to ride different types of horses. I like riding a whole bunch of different horses, rather than just one or two."

The team competes twice every semester, competing in



SUBMITTED PHOTO

hunter jumping and equitation on the flat.

"In the hunter jumping world, instead of looking at how fast you're jumping, they're focused on how nice you're jumping. As well as the non-jumping classes, they're still focused on you," Spencer explained. "They have a certain way they want you to look when you're riding, so they'll ask you to do different gates with the horse, like walking, trotting and cantering."

The shows last two days, and have a variety of schools in the surrounding area coming together to compete.

"The competitions are fun for me because I'm more of a competitive person in general," said Cora Day, a new member of the team and USU freshman. "Being able to meet other people that do what I do is a nice perk."

These riders have been able to make a community for themselves even during the hard times coronavirus has put them through. The pandemic canceled shows back in the spring of 2020, making it difficult for seniors like Spencer to catch up to where they were before.

"Regionals ended up getting canceled when all of the classes started getting canceled as well. So, as a senior, it cleared my points from the competitions," Spencer said. "Now I have a shorter amount of time to make it to regionals and catch up to where I was."

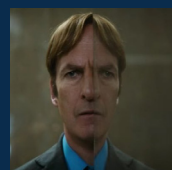
Read the rest of this story at usustatesman.com.



Malorie Ellefson is in her first year of studying English and working at USU Student Media. Outside of writing for The Statesman, she loves watching all types of movies, going to local plays and writing novels.

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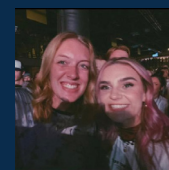
Ngl Troy's dad is completely right in High School Musical. Imagine your son was 2 years away from being in the NBA and he wanted to start doing musicals instead

@cal_ess



U of U, USU, UVU, SUU, and now UTU... still we are denied a utah university named UWU

@HarrisKarcin



The feminine urge to jump into a leaf pile and never be seen again

'Volume III' — Brother. album review

By Natalie Rust
LIFESTYLES STAFF WRITER

Sunlight seeps from open blinds and slashes across the room in honey stripes as I sit on my bed, scrolling through Instagram. "Oxidate" by Brother. turns on, and I begin quietly tapping my foot. Its synth sounds and repetitive, sultry vocals turn the ceiling above me into a galaxy and suddenly I'm hurtling through space.

The next song, "Bleach Babe," blasts from my iPhone's tiny speakers. Electric guitar riffs and lead singer Chuck Emory's breathy voice transport me to a small California beach town. I can feel wind whip at my face through open windows and hear soft giggles as I speed down the sunset coast.

Brother., a local band based in Provo, released their new album, VOL III, in October. The new album epitomizes bedroom pop — a broad term used to represent DIY artists and describe a style of pop based on synthetic, often dreamy sounds.

Other popular bedroom pop artists include Clairo, Girl in Red and beabadoobee.

The synth tones and repetitive beats of "Volume III" have a calming, suspended-in-time sort of effect. In comparison to Brother.'s previous albums, "Volume III" sounds more upbeat and thrilling. Rather than simply a soothing effect,

the album tends to focus on tension, creating an angsty feel.

Jentrie Gilliland, a freshman at Utah State University, described it as something she'd listen to during late night drives when actions appear to have no consequences.

Reagan Harrison, a member of Aggie Radio, likes to listen to Brother. when she drives home on the weekends. She said they're a good "car ride kind of vibe."

Brother. describes the new album as more rock based than their other songs.

"This album is a lot more rock driven than our previous albums," Chuck Emery said. "We also did a lot more synth work with the new songs which has been fun and challenging."

The band radiates all the happy, chill, retro, living my best life kind of vibes. Their Spotify page pops out with a bright profile picture, the band members all clad in mustard yellow.

A simple scroll through their Instagram yields pictures of the members playing at venues, splayed across a sunlit meadow and posing nonchalantly for the camera.

"It's just very bright and colorful and very kind of like out there," Harrison said of the band. "Not in an obnoxious way but in a very fun and engaging type of way."

Harrison suggests fans of Walk the Moon and Wallows and Dayglow give Brother. a try. She says they're a good

introduction for folks looking to get involved with the local music scene.

"They're a good band to start with because they're very engaging," Harrison said.

Overall, Brother's new album is the perfect mix of dreamy and rock beats while still tapping into the calm, synth nature of their other songs — perfect for anyone looking to escape reality or for a local twist on bedroom pop.



Natalie Rust is a freshman interested in studying international studies at Utah State University. In her free time, she loves to read, thrift and explore the great outdoors.

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PHOTO VIA BUZZARDSANDBEES INSTAGRAM



Provo music festival brings frights, delights

By Sage Souza
LIFESTYLES STAFF WRITER

The stuffy air collects above the crowd in a delicious mix of perfume, last-second Halloween makeup from a drugstore, not enough deodorant and desperation to find some kind of solace from having to live in Provo.

The dance floor is flanked by two more open vestibules bathed in red light, one of them complete with a pair of lush red armchairs sitting underneath an oversized black deer skull. Velvet drapes and an antique rug tie the whole set together with a foreboding finish.

If you would have told me a few weeks ago I would be spending an October Friday night in a prom dress from Deseret Industries I ripped to shreds with a serrated knife, I would have laughed right in your stupid face. And then I would get a little nervous because that actually does sound like something I would do. At least a little. Maybe like a 40% chance that I would do it.

Goth Prom is the kick-off event for the local annual Halloween music festival Buzzards and Bees, hosted in downtown Provo. This year, the festival featured more than 70 local musicians and bands in over ten different venues from around 4 p.m. to midnight.

From local coffee shops to music stores to congregational church stages, featuring indie, pop, rock and folk musicians (plus most everything in between). Plus, a Goth Prom dance party, all for \$15? Buzzards and Bees has solidified itself as a new Halloween staple.

Which is how I found myself with last-minute raccoon-looking sparkly makeup smeared around my eyes and doing the wallflower two-step while watching a group of at least 50 young adults mosh to DJ

remixes of Dua Lipa. And honestly? I'd do it all again in a heartbeat.

"I was so glad I went," said USU senior Denali Sanders. "It actually was a lot better than I thought it was going to be, because of like, you know, Provo. But it was so fun. Plus, it's always fun to have an excuse to dress up and do insane eyeliner that I'm too afraid to do during normal business hours — because I work with children."

The festival officially began Friday night with Goth Prom, encouraging attendees to "come dressed depressed." The dance was scheduled to begin at 8 p.m., but showing up on time is decidedly un-goth, so my party and I arrived at The Underground Social Hall a bit later. The Buzzards and Bees staff nailed down the aesthetic perfectly, from spider webs to skeletons to spooky lighting to only slightly sloshed young adults.

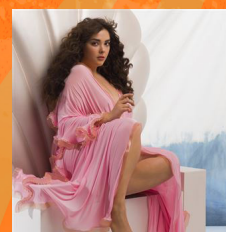
"I loved how like, they went kind of all out for the dance," Sanders said. "It was basically everything I wanted my high school prom to be, but wasn't."

And the musicians the next day were hardly a disappointment. Participating venues were assigned a genre and had ample room for festival-goers to sit and watch, which made it especially easy to know when and/or where you wanted to duck into. The published schedule was organized by time slot as well as venue and promised dozens of local acts punctuated with more popular local performers — bands like The Rubies, Brother, and The Solarists.

Buzzards and Bees gives the local music scene (a community that rarely gets the spotlight in Provo) a time and place to be wholly itself and, in their own words, it's "scary good."



DJ Ethan Hansen's show ON DETOUR plays every Monday at 7 p.m. Tune in for music that's rarely heard on Logan radio.



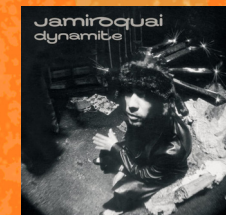
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You're Not The One
Sky Ferreira



Blue Hour
Babe Rainbow



Seven Days in Sunny June
Jamiroquai



Round The Moon
Summer Camp



Odom era begins with USU win

Aggies thump Montana Western in exhibition

By Mark Greenwood
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

The Ryan Odom era is underway in Logan after the Utah State Aggies won their lone exhibition game 81-51 over Montana Western.

After getting out to a slow start, the Aggies found themselves locked in a 28-28 tie with the Bulldogs with just over seven minutes to play in the first half. Utah State responded with a 12-0 run, capped by a Justin Bean one-handed slam and an excited yell towards the Utah State students.

The Aggies would take the momentum and a 40-31 lead into the half.

That would be as close as the score would get as Utah State came out firing in the second half en route to a 30-point victory.

Senior forward Justin Bean led the way for the Aggies with 21 points, five assists and ten rebounds during his near 34 minutes of play. Bean, who looks to be the difference-maker for the Aggies this season, was the catalyst for the USU offense all night.

"Justin was Justin," said head coach Ryan Odom after the game. "He's an impressive player; he never quits ... he was tremendous."

With the loss of three starters from last year, the most notable being Neemias Queta to the NBA draft, Utah State need him to be tremendous game in and game out.

In addition to losing three key starters, the Aggies lost head coach Craig Smith to Utah. Coach Odom was hired in April to replace Smith, who had led the program to three straight NCAA tournaments and back-to-back Mountain West Conference titles in 2019 and 2020.

With that kind of recent success, the expectations are high for Odom in his first year with the Aggies.

Odom and his staff aren't the only ones to come to Logan from UMBC, as he brought graduate transfer Brandon Harvath and senior RJ Eytle-Rock. Horvath played a pivotal role throughout the game, scoring 14 points and hauling in eight rebounds.

The 6' 7" and 6' 10" duo of Bean and Horvath combined for 35 points, six assists and 18 rebounds. The two forwards were the source of USU's momentum all night, relying on each other for offensive openings throughout the game.

"We've got a great chemistry, and I love playing with him," Bean said.

In addition to the height, the speed and length of Bean and Horvath would become the difference maker as the Aggies started to build their lead early in the second half.

This offseason, USU also added the talent of guard Rylan Jones who transferred from Utah. Jones would also prove to be a nice pickup for the Aggies, as he dished out five assists throughout the game.

Other players who made their first appearance in an Aggie uniform were Zee Hamonda, a freshman from Bahrain, who scored four points in 12 minutes of play,

Cade Potter, a freshman from California, who had four points in nine minutes of play.

USU will be back in the Spectrum on Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m., taking on UC Davis to begin their regular season.

In the mean time, they'll look to adjust and see how to improve.

"We got to correct some things obviously on both sides of the floor," Bean said. "This stretch is so critical because

we we know that once the season starts, it seems like four games have gone by and it's only been a couple of days."

🐦 @md_greenwood



New Aggie point guard Rylan Jones drives in the lane during the second half of Utah State's 81-51 win over Montana Western on Oct. 27.

PHOTO BY Joseph F Myers

Late Aggie coach honored by former players

Utah State holds remembrance ceremony for Chuck Mills before CSU game

By Jacob Nielson
SPORTS CONTENT MANAGER

Before Utah State's football game on Oct. 22 against Colorado State, dozens of people gathered around the Merlin Olsen statue south of the stadium to pay tribute to Chuck Mills, a former Utah State coach who passed away in January this year.

Several in attendance were former players of Mills, who coached the Aggies from 1967-72, and compiled a 38-23-1 record. All-American and NFL starter Phil Olsen, Utah State hall of fame running back Roy Shivers and several other contributing players from the Aggie teams of the 60s came out to support the late coach.

Olsen shared some words with the crowd, and a football was passed around to all the former players to be dedicated in his honor. The Aggies walked onto the field pregame, and the ball was deemed the official gameball.

In a final tribute, a video showed some of Mill's ashes being sprinkled over Merlin Olsen Field at Maverik Stadium.

Mills was somebody that had a profound impact on Utah State Football in his six seasons as coach.

The Aggies, who were widely successful during the early 1960s, had a down year in 1966, going 4-6 under head coach Tony Knapp. So Mills was hired for the 1967 season, and came and led the Aggies to a 7-2-1 in his first season.

According to Wayne Lamb, who played center at Utah State from 1967 to 1969, Mills was able to get Utah State back to their winning ways in a short amount of time by fostering a dramatic change in team culture.

"He was the best leader I have ever had," Lamb said. "And I spent 20 years in the military and 30 years in the federal government."

Mills made all the players move into Richards Hall and the old Lund Hall. Keeping together helped keep them out of trouble. They weren't allowed to smoke or drink, or they'd lose their scholarship.

Mills expected hard work. Leading up to the first game of the 1967 season, he'd have the team do three-a-day practices. They were on campus from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

At the end of the final practice of camp, the entire team was physically drained, according to Lamb. But Mills made them do one more thing.

"He said, 'Here's what you're going to do. If you want to play for me, you're going to do a 440 (meter),' " Lamb said. "So we sort of ran and at the end of the 440 he had this Good Humor ice cream, and we ate every bit of his ice cream."

Mills also recruited players from all over the country, from different ethnic backgrounds and convinced them to come to Logan.

The 1970 roster consisted of 33 players from California, 18 from Utah, four from Canada, as well as 11 other states. In a world where racism and prejudice were prevalent in rural Utah, Lamb said Mills set the tone for how people should treat each other.

"He brought together a conglomerate of people from all



PHOTO BY Edward Harimoto

Phil Olsen and former Utah State players who played under the late Chuck Mills walk unto the field before Utah State's Oct. 22 game vs. Colorado State.

over this nation on recruiting," Lamb said. "It was every bit like 'Remember the Titans.' Mills said, 'These are my players. And we're gonna play and you can accept them. You better accept them.'"

With good players from across the country and a reinforced work ethic, the Aggies began to win games again.

"We knew that we needed to come in ready to play," Lamb said. "And we did. The whole world changed."

"A different type of coach," said Ty Couey, the linebacker turned safety that played from 1968 to 1970. "He knew how to win. He knew how to select winners."

In his six seasons at the helm, Mills went 8-4 against Utah and BYU. His teams won seven or more games four of his six seasons. And in 1968, the Aggies went into Madison and beat the Wisconsin Badgers 20-0.

"We played some really good games," Olsen said. "West Texas State in 1967 was unbelievable. We beat and Utah and BYU."

Along the ride, they had a lot of fun. Lamb recalls a time when a group of guys all jumped from the second-story balcony of Richards Hall into the snow.

Mills would get the team so animated they'd bang their heads against the wall. One time, before a game against

Montana, following a pump-up speech from Mills, the team ran to go onto the field, only to find out the locker room had been locked from the outside.

"Really weird stuff. But he brought us all together," Lamb said.


The impact he had is apparent, even today.

"He was such a coach that a group of us got together and created an endowment and his name because of the effect that he had on all of us," Couey said.

According to Utah State Athletics, The Coach Chuck Mills Scholarship Endowment will be given out on an annual basis to players on the football team that are walk-ons or on a partial scholarship.

The hope is Mills can stay remembered.

"Just through the media word of mouth. You know what I mean?" Shivers said. "We're all getting up in a different atmosphere now you know? When you talk about Phil Olsen and all those guys you got to talk about Chuck Mills."

 @jacobnielson12

Sampson: Involvement creates growth

The Utah State University Student Association (USU-SA) includes every student at USU. Professor Lianne Wappett recently said to a group of scholars, “No one is an imposter; I truly believe you belong here.” I extend her words to everyone within our student association. We not only welcome, we need your 100% authentic self. You have something unique to offer, and our university would be a lesser place without you.

The USUSA officers, our student government, work to provide a vibrant college experience through carrying on traditions, creating events, supplying involvement/leadership opportunities, and providing resources. One little-known resource is free and confidential legal advice. Students can schedule one-on-one appointments with an attorney by calling the Student Involvement and Leadership Center office, (435) 797-2912.

Please consider getting involved in USUSA and engaging with opportunities outside of the classroom. I’ve witnessed the hard work of our USU-SA officers/committee members and other organizations. I’ve personally experienced the growth that comes from participating in these roles, and I know they can benefit you as well.

You may have reservations about applying yourself within involvement opportunities stemming from fear of rejection. I encourage you to still put yourself out there because I’m a firm believer that you don’t lose; you learn.

I gained an insight into USU involvement in my economics courses. We’ve discussed game theory, and more specifically, the situation of a zero-sum game. This is when one player’s gain is equal to another’s loss. There’s never a change in the total net wealth or benefit of the game. I would argue that USU involvement is not a zero-sum game. If someone puts time into an application or project, and it doesn’t work out, they still benefit from their preparation and experience. Also, the involvement game is constantly expanding! New positions, organizations, clubs, etc. are popping up left and right. When a fellow Aggie succeeds and contributes to the university, the value of everyone’s experience here increases. So we have every reason to support our peers and celebrate their successes.

One of my favorite traditions, which I’m so happy was able to happen this year, is the luminary, put on by Student Orientation & Transition Services. Among other aspects of the ceremony, USU 1010 Connections students receive Old Main lanterns and the A light turns blue. I learned just how personal and intimate this ceremony really is from a recent conversation I had with Dr. Mitchell Colver, professional practice professor and designer of the Old Main lantern. The luminary “tells students that they



SUBMITTED PHOTO

matter as individuals.” By giving each student something of their own and lighting the A light blue, signaling victory, it communicates that “Old Main represents you. This A light is your light. You own this.”

We’ve all enjoyed the resurgence of events and traditions over the last few weeks, especially our freshmen and re-freshmen, who are experiencing many of the highlights of college life for the first time. One friend said it best, “There’s a palpable sense of joy on campus.” Amidst the happiness, there’s an underlying concern with growing COVID case counts. Luckily, there are individual decisions that each of us can make to enhance the Aggie experience for ourselves and others.

Please get vaccinated, and if you already are, please upload those records to USU Student Health Services. I honestly think that the cost, time, and risk of becoming vaccinated is generally minuscule relative to the benefits for one’s own health and that of our university community.

Also, please wear face-coverings inside campus buildings, classes, and at university events. This increases the likelihood these activities can continue in person immensely. If you have questions regarding the university’s position concerning face coverings

and other COVID-related topics, please reference usu.edu/covid-19.

I want to emphasize that our university’s compassionate leaders care about us and want to see us safely enjoy college. By receiving the gift of in-person events, I think it’s ungrateful for us not to act to ensure their continuation. Everyone individually plays a part in the safety of our university. We’re a team, an Aggie Family; we think, care, and act.

Our fight song goes, “Hail the Utah Aggies. We’ll play the game with all our might ... We’re out to win, so fight, fight, fight!” We are all engaged in the fight against this ongoing virus. Our victories may not be as conclusive and visible as turning the A light blue, but your contributions and sacrifices are vital. It’s incredible to see everyone on campus again, so let’s get involved and safely enjoy this year together!

Taylor Sampson is a 5th-Year Senior at Utah State University from Draper, Utah studying digital media marketing. Taylor currently serves as the w Vice President for the USU Student Association.

— athleticsvp.ususa@usu.edu

Opinion: USU needs more Republicans

College is not just about taking classes, it's about leaving a positive impact on campus.

Not since the Civil War has there been such fundamental disagreement over basic assumptions about our national identity. The United States is in the midst of a "culture war." Much more than a disagreement, it's a conflict between two irreconcilable worldviews. Republicans and Democrats are locked in a battle for the soul of America, waged foremost in American schools and on college campuses. With Washington politics influencing our local community, we need Aggies that are willing to be leaders instead of followers.

Racist and anti-American ideologies like Critical Race Theory and the 1619 Project have been embraced by Democrats. Gender-neutral bathrooms have been a particular source of contention. Since Democrats like Barack Obama ridicule parents' concerns over sexual assault allegations as "fake outrage," it's obvious Democrats are more concerned with pushing identity politics into our schools than solving real issues.

One of the most effective ways to combat this encroachment onto our college campus is by joining USU College Republicans. Whether you are Republican, conservative or liberty minded, there are many ways for you to get involved and make a positive impact on campus.

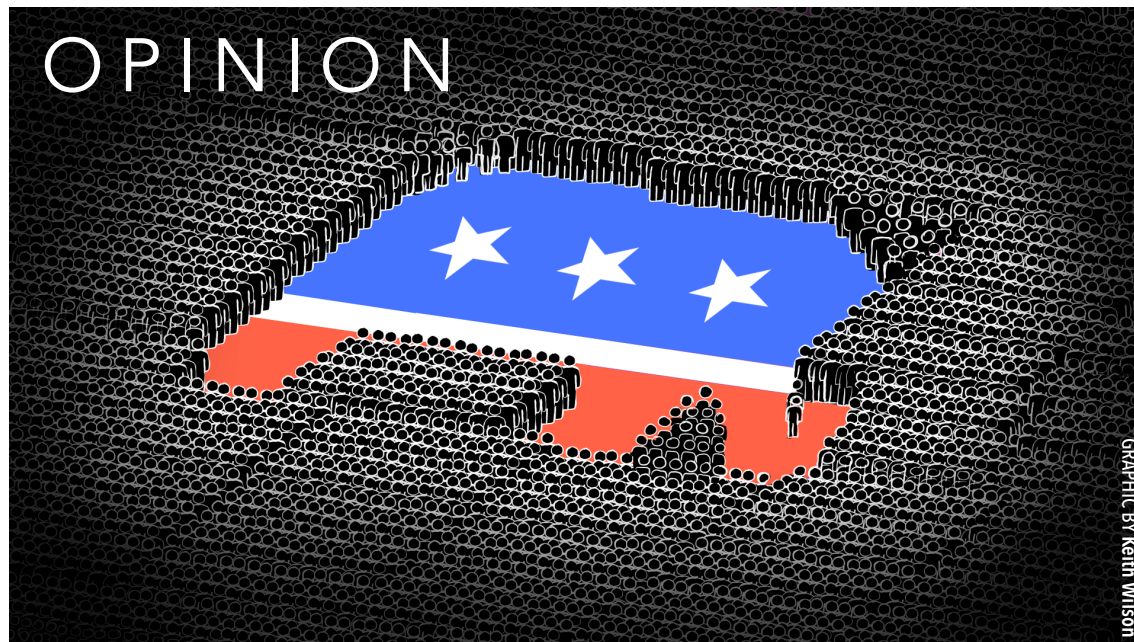
The mission of the USU College Republicans is "to create awareness of conservative beliefs and ideas on campus, increase political awareness among our members, campaign and volunteer for Republican candidates and provide a social network for conservative students. We help advance the Republican cause through activism, education, events and involvement on Utah State University campus, throughout Cache Valley and the State of Utah."

While USU encourages open dialogue, students are wary of speaking out. I have spoken with many students who feel strongly about issues but are not comfortable talking openly about them.

"I don't want to be labeled for something I said or feel like I might lose others' respect if I speak out," said Rigby Westerson, a USU student.

It's more important now than ever that we cultivate a community of civil dialogue and provide a platform where conservative students feel they can be vocal on campus without fear of retaliation.

"I believe civic engagement on campus is key



to cultivating civility," said Ryan Smith, the new president of USU College Republicans. "I encourage students who are conservative to share their opinions on campus but always to do so with respect and dignity. We need to stand firm in what we stand for but remember to listen to others' opinions. I think some students choose to not share their views because of fear of retaliation. I hope that students will always feel that their first amendment rights on campus are protected. I encourage all at USU to continue promoting the free exchange of ideas on campus."

Many conservatives believe college has become a leftist indoctrination camp. Research from the National Association of Scholars found Democratic professors to outnumber Republicans 9 to 1 at top college campuses. University classes in the humanities and social sciences, such as gender studies and history, have become a regurgitation exercise of useless "woke" ideology pushing conformity with no diversity of thought or critical thinking skills.

Aristotle said, "Be a free thinker and don't accept everything you hear as truth. Be critical and evaluate what you believe in."

Despite what you may think, your professors are not always right. They do not have all the answers and are often wrong. While it may be difficult, students need to have the courage to speak up, question, and challenge material in class they may not agree with.

"Thoughtcrime" has now become a very real social stigma especially for students, and we

must be wary of cultivating an environment of hostile groupthink on campus. Liberalism, which was once defined as a willingness to respect different opinions has become a misnomer. Liberalism must be rescued from the left's intolerance.

USU needs more Republicans to stand for our shared values. If you want to have an impact, protect student rights, build the community or just network with conservative students, USU College Republicans is the club for you. USU College Republicans will have their first meeting on Nov. 4 at 6 p.m. in Old Main Room 225.



Keaton Hagloch is a public health major and has a passion for politics and writing. He loves the outdoors, playing the guitar and spending time with friends and family.

— khagloch@aggiemail.usu.edu



Aggies return to the court



CARTOON BY Keith Wilson

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